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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6612

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 003247

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PLEASE PASS TO IO/UNP JOHN MARIZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/26/2017

TAGS: [UNGA](#) [ETRD](#) [PHUM](#) [UN](#) [CU](#) [PREL](#) [BE](#)

SUBJECT: BELGIUM:DEMARCHE ON CUBA EMBARGO RESOLUTION AT THE  
UNGA

REF: STATE 148506

Classified By: A/POLCOUNS SHARON BOWMAN. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) Poloff discussed reftel points with Michel Versailles and Benedicte Frankinet, Director of the MFA's Office of UN Affairs. Versailles said Belgium's past voting patterns had favored Cuba's resolution. While they were still reviewing the resolution, they saw no elements at this point to change Belgium's voting pattern. Poloff reiterated reftel arguments. On whether Belgium would deliver Explanations of Vote expressing concern about Cuba's human rights situation, Versailles was noncommittal, but pointed to last year's EU Declaration on Cuba and its criticism of Cuba's human rights violations as something Belgium supported.

12. (C) We will continue to push on this issue.

BUSH

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